

To the Bootle Rural District Council.

Annual Report for 1913.

RA VENGLASS,

February 19th, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to place before you my Annual Report for 1913.

The Death-rate of the District is slightly higher than that of the two previous years, but the Birth-rate is also distinctly higher. The Infantile Mortality rate is higher than last year, but as four out of the seven deaths notified were those of infants prematurely born who survived only a few hours, the death-rate as regards the other three is a satisfactory one for any district.

Infectious Diseases.—The number notified is much lower than for some years. No case of poliomyelitis has been notified, though cases have occurred in North Lancashire.

Water Supply.—Is very good where it exists. The parts of the District which are without a proper supply are Eskdale Green and that part of Bootle Parish west of the Station. In the latter case there should be no great difficulty in providing a supply if most of the owners are willing to bear their share of the cost, as I understand is the case.

Rivers and Streams. — The pollution of these is slight, especially when their character is considered.

Drainage and Sewerage. — The various public sewers throughout the District have worked well. No new public sewers have been constructed. An extension of the sewer from Bootle Station to the West is recommended.

Closet Accommodation and Sewerage. — The Closet Accommodation is sufficient, with very few exceptions, where action has been taken to improve it; and where the sewerage system permits, water closets are substituted. Where the scavenging system is in force it is satisfactory.

Schools.—Are visited from time to time. There has not been any occasion to close a school on account of Infectious Disease.

Food (a) Milk Supply.—Is ample, and, in my experience, of good quality. It is all produced within the District. The dairies are well kept.

(b) Other Foods.—No unsound food has been found. The sanitary condition of premises where Foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale are satisfactory. The slaughter-houses are regularly visited, and are well conducted.

(c) Sale of Food and Drugs Act.— This is administered by the Police.

Housing.— There is no overcrowding, and the character of most of the houses in the District is good; some of the oldest houses are deficient in ventilation and spouting, and require repairs. From time to time a certain amount of work of this description has been carried out, and more will follow each year. Great attention is paid to the supervision of the erection of new houses and the laying of the drains required.

Table showing summary of work done under the Housing
(Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910:—

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes
of Section 17 of the Act of 1909, 36.

Number of Dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered
to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be
unfit for habitation, 19.

Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a
view to making a Closing Order, 1.

Number of Closing Orders made, 1.

Number of Dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied
without the making of a Closing Order, 19.

Number of Dwelling-houses which after the making of a Closing
Order were put into a fit state for human habitation, 1.

The general character of defects found to exist :—

(a) Water Supply, 8.

(b) Closet Accommodation, 4.

(c) Drainage, 10.

(d) Condition as regards light, free circulation of air,
dampness, and cleanliness, 14.

(e) Paving, drainage, and condition of yard and out-
houses.

(f) Disposal of refuse and ashes, 2.

Tuberculosis.—Seven cases notified. The premises are
visited and instructions given to occupiers. Should a death take
place, the premises are disinfected. There is an Open-Air Shelter
at Bootle and a Dispensary at Millom for treatment of cases,
towards the maintenance of which your Council contribute £35
a year, in association with the Bootle Union.

Workshops, etc.—Forty-one are on the register, and
have been regularly inspected.

I append Table and Statistics, and am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H. Bootle Rural District Council.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents register- ed in the District.	of Resi- dents not register- ed in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1907	5469		90	17.4	79	15.3			7	77.7	79	15.3
1908	5469		118	23.	77	15.2			9	76.2	77	15.2
1909	5050		121	23.9	73	14.4			5	41.3	73	14.4
1910	5050		109	21.5	78	15.4			4	36.7	79	15.6
1911	5664		111	19.6	63	11.12		2	7	63.	65	11.4
1912	5664		103	18.18	58	10.25		5	2	19.4	63	11.3
1913	5664	120	119	21.	72	11.35		8	7	58.8	80	12.61

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 92,322.

Total population at all ages, 5,664 ; Number of inhabited houses, 1,128 ; Average number of persons per house, 5.021.

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.					Total Cases notified in each locality.											Total Cases removed to Hospital.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.													
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polyomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	15	...	8	2	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	8	1	...	2	2	...	...	5

Isolation Hospital—Millom and Bootle Joint Hospital. Total available beds, 20.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
		ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes {	Certified ...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Uncertified	nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	1
Tuberculosis Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...
Bronchitis ...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	4	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	...	6	...	1	...	...	2	2	1	...	1
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	...	13	1	...	...	1	1	2	4	4	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	20	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	16	1
		80	6	2		2	5	8	23	33	3

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

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MILLOM,

February, 1914.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of your District for the year 1913.

The report will contain many points upon which you are already conversant, but I have to include all work carried out during the year, in order to convey to the Local Government Board and the Cumberland County Council some idea of the sanitary condition and progress of our District, copies of the Annual Report having to be forwarded to these bodies.

I have continued to give every assistance and advice to all enquirers upon sanitary matters, and have supervised all improvements whether these be done voluntarily or under compulsion, and I venture to suggest the amount of work accomplished is the best indication of the progress of public opinion upon the advantage of sanitation. Work done voluntarily is done because a person recognises the benefits to be derived.

My best thanks are due to the Council, and to the Medical Officer of Health, for the support they have always accorded me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. BRITTON-JONES.

Water Supply.—Speaking generally, the District is extremely well supplied with various schemes of good, pure water, all upon the “ gravitation ” principle.

In common with a great many other districts, our supplies were severely tried by the exceptional long dry weather during the summer, and it was only by constant supervision and inspection that a continuous supply was maintained. Fortunately, we did not have to shorten the hours of supply at any of the villages supplied by the District Council.

The augmentation recently carried out at Whicham proved of considerable value ; in fact, it was practically all the water available at the end of the dry spell.

I am pleased to report that scraping and cleaning out of the water main at Silecroft was carried out at the early part of the year, rather more than a mile of piping being cleaned by the “ Powrcleer ” machine.

The work has proved highly successful, the quantity and pressure through the mains being restored to their original capacity. The water will now reach over the highest building in any part of the village.

Some little trouble was experienced for a short time after the work was completed by discoloration of the water, due to rust, but this has now stopped, and the improvement is giving every satisfaction.

I regret the augmentation of the Bootle supply has not yet been carried out, and the difficulties with the interested parties seem to be practically surmounted now, the whole of the pipes and fittings for the work are delivered, I am therefore in hopes of the work being put in hand before the coming summer. The additions to this supply are urgently needed. I should not like to pass through another season such as last summer without this extra supply, the anxiety was too great, and although I did not have to shorten the hours of the domestic supply, I found it imperative to stop the works at Eskmeals for two weeks, when a break in the weather assisted our supply.

The consumption at these works has proved to be very great, something like half a million gallons being used during each half-year. This was a very severe strain, but with the additional water now proposed, we shall be in a position to meet all demands made upon the supply for some time to come.

I regret to again report that the various farms below Bootle Station are still without an adequate supply of water—many of these farms have to cart practically every drop of water they need for considerable distances. I know of no part of our District which stands in more need of a water supply, as a supply could be obtained fairly easily from the Bootle mains. I hope the District Council will press this matter.

As previously reported, Eskdale and Santon still stand in need of an adequate supply of water ; this has again been brought before the Parish Council, who have decided that in view of so many of the houses being vacant, they cannot see their way to go in for a scheme at present. While agreeing, to a certain extent, with their decision, this matter should not be lost sight of by the Council, and when a favourable opportunity arises a scheme should be proceeded with.

The arrangements for a scheme for Ladyhall seem well in hand, and I am pleased to see there is every prospect of a supply being carried out before the coming summer.

The supply to Drigg and Seascale continues of the same high order, the large storage reservoir at Muncaster proving of great assistance in keeping a constant supply. No chokeages at the intake took place during the year.

It has been found necessary to provide a new screen at the intake, the one in use showing signs of breaking away.

Rivers and Streams.— I am pleased to be in a position to again report there is nothing of a serious nature affecting the rivers and streams in your District. These are all of such a swift character that it would require very serious pollution to affect these to any appreciable extent.

Certain cases of nuisance caused by drains discharging straight into the streams have been attended to, and the nuisances abated.

Drainage and Sewerage. — There has been a considerable amount of work carried out under this heading during the year, perhaps the most important being the laying of the first section of sewers of the Hodgkin Park Estate at Seascale, a length of sewer from the shore to the main road having been laid, together with the necessary flushing tank and manholes ; this will serve for several valuable building sites, one large house having been erected already.

The scheme of sewers at Seascale reported upon in my last annual report has not yet been carried out, but the question has been revived, and is again in course of negotiation. I sincerely hope the efforts will be brought to a successful issue, as a line of sewer to the schools on the Gosforth road would be the means of opening up a lot of building land at Seascale, and would facilitate the extension of a main sewer to take the sewerage of Hodgkin Park.

The sewer through the Town End fields at Seascale was found to be defective, and this has been opened up and repaired, and is now working satisfactory.

The sewer at Bootle Station has been relaid during the year, a larger pipe has been put in, and the whole length put into sanitary condition. While this work was in hand, the various house drainage connected to this sewer were tested, and all defects discovered were made good ; altogether a great improvement has been carried out upon this line of sewer.

Considerable improvements have been carried out in the sewer and tank behind the King's Head Hotel, Bootle. This tank has been reconstructed and a properly piped overflow put in ; a new ventilating shaft has been erected upon the line of sewers in Bootle village.

The various sewers throughout the District have worked well during the year, and have given very little trouble.

I cannot refrain from again reporting upon the great assistance which I have derived from the smoke-testing machine. A considerable amount of private house drainage has been carried out during the year. The smoke machine is an absolutely reliable means of ascertaining the state of the drain either upon old or new work, and it has undoubtedly assisted in maintaining the high standard of workmanship.

Closest Accommodation. — Whenever the sewerage system permits, water-closets are suggested, failing which dry earth-closets are recommended. As previously reported, I find that in some of the older parts of the District, and in certain isolated places, the objectionable pits are still in use, having an accumulation of filth of a very long period, and, generally speaking, these pits are without coverings, thus the rain and sun considerably add to the nuisance. These are gradually being remedied.

Scavenging. — The removal of house refuse from the private houses of Seascale, which is done by contract twice per week, continues to give satisfaction, little or no complaints having been received.

The work of cleaning the contents of the privies at The Hill, Millom, has been attended to by the contractor quite satisfactorily during the year, no complaints having been received.

The trial of a voluntary system of scavenging for Bootle Station has never been started, difficulty having been experienced in obtaining the approval of some of the householders.

I am still of opinion the important subject of scavenging is one which may with advantage be seriously considered in more of our parishes.

Sanitary Inspection of District. — In the course of ordinary routine work, something like 210 premises have been visited during the year (as usual, many of the premises need to be visited several times whilst remedial work is in progress), and 103 sanitary amendments were made, the following being a summary :

Number of Drains relaid or repaired	35
„ Premises provided with new water supply ...	14
„ New W.C.'s provided	9
„ Refuse receptacles provided	7
„ Houses cleansed, disinfected, or limewashed	19
„ Houses found with defective ventilation under floors	5
„ Sundry nuisances abated	14
Total	103

These results are extremely gratifying, particularly in view of the fact that it has not been necessary to take extreme measures in a single case, the inhabitants being willing to do their best to meet our requirements when shown these are reasonable and in their own interests.

During the year, Bye-laws for regulating the foreshores at Whicham and Seascale were duly passed, and although these were not published in time to be of use in controlling these foreshores last summer, it is hoped these Bye-laws will go a long way to prevent nuisances at these places in future.

Steps are being taken with a view of erecting sanitary conveniences on the foreshore at Seascale, also a public urinal in the village; these are very necessary improvements, and will add materially to the comfort of the many visitors to Seascale.

Schools.—The various public schools throughout the District are regularly visited, and the high state of cleanliness of the out-offices is maintained.

In practically every case the accommodation at these schools are now either of the “water closet” or “dry-earth-closets,” improvements having been carried out under my supervision, as previously reported to you.

Improvements are under consideration for Buckman Brow Schools, where it is proposed to put in a series of water closets, new lavatory, and urinals, together with the building of a septic tank; it is also proposed to lay down a new water supply.

Improvements are also contemplated at the Infants’ Schools at Ravenglass, which at present have the objectionable pits, and which are in close proximity to the schools and neighbouring houses. The fact that there are only a few infant children attending this school has been the reason for not pressing these improvements.

Food : Milk Supply.—This question is in the same condition as previously reported. There are no milk shops in the District. The milk is usually carried direct from the farm to the consumer, the supply is abundant and wholesome.

The dairies continue to be well kept, and are a striking tribute to the cleanliness of the women-folk of our District.

The anticipated legislation in connection with the question of milk not having been passed into law makes the time rather inopportune to ask for drastic alterations in our cowsheds, etc., and one has continued to direct one's attention to the question of cleanliness.

The remarks upon this question of my previous reports still hold good, and to which I respectfully draw your attention.

Other Foods.—The Slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, and these are well conducted.

No necessity has arisen for seizure of unwholesome food during the year.

Food and Drugs Act. — In this District the Foods and Drugs Act is administered by the County Council through the Police.

Disinfection. — The number of infectious cases notified during the year were only 15, seven of which were of Tuberculosis.

Considerable work has been carried out under this heading. All cases of infectious diseases notified have been visited, and instructions given as to isolation, etc.

Disinfectants have also been supplied, and when the patients have recovered, or have been removed to the Isolation Hospital, the premises have been thoroughly disinfected.

The necessity of disinfecting in cases of Tuberculosis is no mean addition to the work, and if, as now seems probable, the Local Government Board insist upon a monthly disinfection of infected premises, the work of this department will be materially increased.

The Council are well supplied with disinfecting apparatus, having the "Invicta" spraying (under pressure) machine, "Alformant Lamps," and "Sharratt's Formaldehyde Fumigators." There is also a Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

Housing.— Continued progress is being made with the house-to-house inspection of the district under the Housing Act. As previously mentioned, the isolated nature of our District naturally impedes this work; in several of our villages there is only one tradesman upon whom falls all the work necessary to put premises in order, consequently much time elapses before results are apparent; this incidentally necessitates many extra visits. I am pleased, however, to be able to report that a considerable number of houses have been repaired and improved, adding considerably to the comfort and health of the occupiers as an outcome of our visits under this Act.

The cottage “ Down in the Dale,” situated at Wasdale Head, which I mentioned in my last year’s report, has been put into habitable repair, and the closing order has been withdrawn. The cottage is now occupied.

It has been found necessary in one case, that of a small cottage on Irton Moor, to apply for a closing order, the cottage being in such a condition as to render it unfit for occupation. It will be remembered that a closing order was passed.

I have added a summary of work done under this heading. This is added to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board :—

Number of Inspections made	36
„ Informal notices served	19
„ Formal notices served	1

for all of which the work is in hand, or satisfactory arrangements for the same to be done at suitable times have been made.

There has again been a large amount of new work carried out during the year, although only three entirely new houses have been erected. Plans were approved for extensive alterations to 14 additional properties.

Great attention is paid to this work; in each case the “bottoms for the foundations,” “ the foundations,” “ the damp courses,” “ ventilation under the floors ” have all to be inspected in the course of the erection of the building; instructions as to the laying of the drains and the testing of these when laid have also to be seen to. This has been the means of considerably improving the standard of work.

Number of Houses inspected under Section 17 ...	36
Number of Houses found injurious to health ...	19
Number of Houses reported to Sanitary Authority for Closing Order	1
Number of Closing Orders made	1
Number of Houses repaired without Closing Order	19
Number of Houses, which, after the making of Closing Order, were put in fit state for occupa- tion	1
General Defects found to exist :—	
(a) Water Supply	8
(b) Closet Accommodation	4
(c) Drainage	10
(d) Ventilation, Light, Dampness, Cleanliness, etc.	14
(e) Paving, and condition of Court-yard and Out-houses	7
(f) Disposal of Refuse	2

Factory and Workshops Act.—The conditions of the various work places within our District remain very stationary. There has been a large extension to one of the workshops, and in two cases attention was called to the necessity of lime-washing, and the work was carried out immediately.

The number upon the register remains the same, i.e., 41.